

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting – January 18, 2005**

Present:     Commissioners

Kathryn Eckert, At-Large (by phone)  
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan  
Clyde Raasio, Franklin & Quincy Townships  
Kim Hoagland, At-large  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township

National Park Service – Keweenaw National Historical Park

Frank Fiala, Superintendent  
Tom Baker, Management Assistant  
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect  
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services  
Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation and Education  
Brian Hoduski, Museum Curator  
Charlie Masten, Facility Manager  
Jo Urion, Historian  
Ann Mayo-Keily, Resource Stewardship Planner

Guests

Paul Campbell, Lac LaBelle  
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections  
Jill Burkland, Director, Isle Royale Natural History Association  
Michael Matts, Strategic Planning Consultant to Keweenaw NHP Adv. Comm.  
Julie Sprenger, Laurium Manor Inn  
Abbey Green, Abbey Art Glass  
Diana Charles, Senator Levin's Office

Absent:     Sue Cone, Village of Calumet  
              Bob Langseth, Houghton County

Recording Secretary: Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services

## I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:05 and asked guests present to introduce themselves.

## II. Introductions

Michael Matts, Strategic Planning Consultant to Keweenaw NHP Adv. Comm.  
Paul Campbell, Lac LaBelle  
Diana Charles, Senator Levin's Office

## III. Agenda

The agenda was approved without change. No additions.

## IV. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the October 19, 2004 will be revised and cleaned up, and will be presented at the next (April) meeting for approval.

## V. Business/Reports

### A. Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala outlined the planning the park has been involved with since beginning of Fiscal Year 2005.

1. Jonathan Church, Transportation Planner from National Park Foundation had to return to Boston. He is still in the program and will finish his report on the connecting transportation scheme, contingent upon receiving MTU's Alternative Transportation Plan information. When he receives the information, he will be able to finish his report.
2. Ann Mayo-Keily is working on the Resource Stewardship Plan, (formerly the Resource Management Plan) with the goal of completion by mid-May.
3. Funds were received last year for the Interior Planning Project for the General Office Building, and the Historic Structures Reports for the Library Building and the Quincy Pay Office. Lynn Bjorkman is on staff working on those reports. Quinn Evans Architects has been engaged for the design phase of the interior building rehabilitation. They completed a three-day Value Analysis session in November and submitted their report for staff review. This project has been bumped in the line-item construction process to FY2010.
4. Jo Urion and staff have been meeting often to finish the Historic Resources Study; the projected completion is for next month.

5. Servicewide Comprehensive Call (was due Dec. 30): staff has been very busy writing project statements and prioritizing statements for soft money request, using a five-year approach, and have been awarded several significant projects from the effort, as follows:
  - A) Repair-Rehab Project for the Quincy Pay Office; \$100,000; Quinn Evans have been engaged to do the A & E work on it. Looking to put on a new slate roof, or take care of windows, with funding following in FY2006, which begins October 1, of an additional \$390,000. By the end of this summer the Quincy Pay Office should make substantial rehabilitation progress. Additionally, the ruins on west side of the road of Quincy Pay Office received \$123,000 for stabilization work.
  - B) YCC Project has been submitted to remove vegetation from the ruins on Quincy Hill, but haven't heard back on it.
6. The Government Results and Performance Act (GRPA) was answered with the creation of a Strategic Plan which includes cross-referencing with the Project Management Information System, and is linked to Facility Management Software System as well as the accounting system.
7. Facility Management Software System (FMSS) is a new management system to care for the facilities Keweenaw NHP owns and operates. With a partnership park it presents challenges in sorting out the assets. All these systems are linked via computer, and this fiscal year KEWE is partnering with Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, sharing the services of their IT Specialist and their Facility Management Software System Coordinator. The park has entered into a two-year agreement to ensure that the systems are securely up and running.
8. Lastly, a Fire Suppression System will be installed in the Keweenaw History Center sometime this summer.

Lands Issues:

1. Received a Level I & II Survey back on the Coppertown property. Issues of contamination: legislation prohibits KEWE from acquiring anything that is contaminated, so that will have to be addressed and worked through if the property is acquired.
2. The Union Building exterior project is in the process of being re-bid. Hoping for an April 1, 2005 start.
3. Have yet to receive funding authority, but the system got a 4% across the board base budget increase for parks, but when accounting for inflation and pay raises, the program is down about \$60,000.

4. KEWE was appropriated \$800,000 (less, because there was an across-the-board assessment taken on all monies, making it about \$780,000) for the Calumet Main Street Program. Will work with the Main Street Board to utilize the money with a possible revolving loan fund and administrative help in the program's management. This will provide the Main Street program with many major (positive) repercussions in downtown Calumet for the future.

Interpretation:

1. Frank acknowledged and thanked Kathleen and Dan. Kathleen has developed a "Parks as Classroom" grant working with local teachers with an on-line curriculum, *Teaching In Historic Places*, which will go into the schools. \$15,000 has been received with this grant.
2. \$4,000 was received from the National Park Foundation and REI Recreational Equipment to recruit and train twenty new volunteers for the next year.
3. The Kodak Foundation donated a \$5,000 digital single lens reflex (SLR) professional format camera to produce exhibits and a variety of informational pieces.
4. Developing the summer newspaper, The Ingot.
5. Working with Cooperating Sites in terms of training, technical assistance and strategic planning.
6. Continuing the Visitor Center operation at the Quincy Mine Hoist Association. The sign is now complete.
7. Working on Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, ongoing.
8. Walking Tour of downtown Calumet and area for this summer.
9. Park website improvement, ongoing.
10. Planning upcoming interpretive training for the Cooperating Sites this spring.
11. Dan and Tom Baker are NPS Fundamental Instructors, part of a national effort. Dan is the Midwest Regional "Leave No Trace" Coordinator. Kathleen is involved in the National Junior Ranger Committee and also the Interpretive Development Committee. KEWE, due to its partnering premise, has some exciting outcomes through her involvement.

Preservation Services Division:

1. Working with Main Street Committees and overall program as well as with the township in the rehab program. Steve is involved in the signage program and the smelter from a designing standpoint.

Paul asked if the interest gained from the \$800,000 fund might be used for administration that could fund Main Street past the three-year commitment the public has made to it.

Frank replied there is a restriction on interest for federal money, so it has to be in a non-interest bearing account. KEWE will try to use the money to lay a foundation and use it for multiple years.

Paul asked about the study of the Coppertown properties, and wondered if the contaminated part of the property (where the foundry was) could be isolated from the rest of the package?

Frank said that had happened already, and that there were lead paint and asbestos issues in some of the other buildings in other parcels. Overall it's not major, but they have been noted and have to be dealt with.

Tom Tikkanen wondered if we could expand the website, post documentation and record history with the new camera for people to view online, and wondered if that was part of the camera allowance.

Kathleen answered that the grant is just for a camera. She outlined directions to go with the website, noting that it is a matter of time, and future grants.

Tom T. reiterated that viewing documents and artifacts would lure visitors with a fantastic website.

Abby Sue reported that they finished their work plan. Gearing up to work on salvage records continuation with the Quincy Pay Office records, records salvaged from Warehouse #3, and the Village records. Working with volunteers; the Oral History program is continuing, as well as the Historic Resources Study. Kicking off the Fourth Thursday in History program again this month. Lynn will speak; Erik will give a tour of the Archives. The entire division is working on the Smackdown.

Brian added information about an upcoming preservation project, reformatting nitrate film negatives to a polyester film base. Nitrate negatives are volatile, and collections have been problematic. It's a good opportunity to preserve images from deterioration. They will be shipping nitrate negatives off in September, so cataloging is currently underway.

Abby Sue described the acquisition of a Wei T'o Book Dryer/Exterminator: a retrofitted glass-door refrigerator that freeze-dries books to eradicate mold and pest infestations. There are many moldy records from the basement vault of the Pay Office - early business records from the turn of the century.

Paul asked if the public had any questions on Frank's report. No questions were asked.

#### B. Reports from the Commission

Tom reported that the tourism industry had a tough summer but a good fall. So far it's not a great winter, but marketing for summer is starting right now in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Minneapolis and Milwaukee. Numerous shows will be attended and literature from this area will be distributed; publicity for Keweenaw National Historic Park is part of it all. He passed out a current issue of *Midwest Living*, a successful magazine for previous marketing. Featured is a story about local people, "Crazy for Winter" about six or seven people from the U.P. who thoroughly enjoy winter.

Kathryn read in the minutes that the Laurium National Historic Landmark District nomination has been submitted.

Julie responded that they should hear any day from Washington, probably by the end of January.

Kathryn mentioned that the Americana Foundation funded part of the Laurium National Historic Landmark. She went on to say that the Dave Evans Award applications are due to the Michigan Architectural Foundation. It is a \$5,000 award given to a nonprofit each year in memory of Dave Evans for an organization that can demonstrate a creative solution to a preservation problem...she thinks we have some candidates. Applicants need to contact the Michigan chapter of the AIA in Detroit; reviews are in February, so applications need to be sent if they haven't already. Their number is 313/965-4100. UP projects have been the recipients of this award.

Paul thanked Kathryn.

Clyde commented that stabilization work was done on the Boiler House at the Quincy Mine Complex, and also the round house. Brushing was done, so visibility is improved.

Kim noted that she has been brought into the Resource Stewardship Planning process to represent the commission on the partnership subcommittee. Bob Langseth is also involved.

Paul reported that a façade grant was received for downtown Calumet for \$125,000 through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). This will allow removal of the State Farm building, which is in terrible condition, and will disburse six or seven mini-grants for façade improvements. The project has been approved and four or

five projects have been picked so far. This is in cooperation with Main Street; MSHDA specifically wanted the money targeted for Main Street.

The Township is also applying for Neighborhood Preservation Grants through MSHDA for areas like Blue Jacket but this includes some downtown rental rehabilitation and façade projects. The project has been extended to Calumet Lake. There are two buildings that need protection: the old pump house and the old boiler house. There is a possibility of making a day-use park out of it, putting toilets in. Targeted \$50,000 towards that, but it still has to be approved by MSHDA. As for the Old Calumet Armory: the community is taking over the old building. \$200,000 has been applied for through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to do interior work and make the building ADA accessible (handicapped toilets, access, etc.).

Items having nothing to do with the park include: a possible fisheries grant for Calumet Lake for both the day-use park and stabilizing the existing dam; an application for purchasing an additional 280 acres of property at Swedetown Ski Trails. Lake Superior Land Company has confirmed and a price has been set on the project; the hope is to fund it through DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund. Total properties would be 1900 acres. Lastly, running water toilets will be installed at Calumet Waterworks Park.

Erik raised a question about paid staff from the Commission.

Paul replied that the Commission would be filling the position of Executive Director for the Advisory Commission.

#### VI. Reports/Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Diana said that last year was tough for budget appropriations. She expressed disappointment in what they were able to get for their constituents. This year is expected to be as tight, if not more so. The war continues; the President wants to make the tax cuts permanent. This means fewer revenues for projects such as parks, sewers, water systems, etc. Kay Meyer will be moving to Counsel for the Senator and they will have a new legislative aide working with parks in Washington. The appropriations cycle in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress is starting, she suggested turning in appropriations requests as soon as possible.

Paul reported that the contractors are turning over the new Armory (Readiness Center) in June, with a grand opening and ribbon cutting on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005. He expressed the desire to invite Bart Stupak and Senator Levin, as they worked so hard with it. He thinks it could be the finest National Guard armory in the state of Michigan.

Diana will put it on Senator Levin's block schedule.

VII. Comments/Questions from Public:

Erik stated that the MTU Archives are in their new facility. A tour will be part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in History Series for 2005 on the fourth Thursday in January. Also, Lynn Bjorkman, Tom Messner, and Erik Nordberg are offering a program on researching historic properties. The February event will feature a class at Michigan Tech taught by Kim Hoagland, documenting historic neighborhoods. March's event will be hosted at the Laurium Manor Inn with Abby Green giving a presentation on historic stained glass work. April's event is the local history contest for high school students, the "Smackdown" at the Calumet Theater. May's event is yet to be determined; the program will run through October.

Also in the works are two grants: an NEH Preservation Assistance Grant: an expert is coming in the fall to assess the new facility and report on priority items; and \$15,000 funding from the Michigan Humanities Council for a \$40,000 project to develop web content and pilot a digital imaging project, envisioning a clearing-house for historic photos from this region. The Archives is working with KEWE and local repositories. The grant will explore themes of ethnicity in the Keweenaw. This project should be finished by October of this year, kicking it off with a one-day symposium looking at ethnicity in the Keweenaw. The date has not been set.

Paul welcomed Jim Boyce, who came in after the meeting started.

Jill Burkland wants to remind people that the full collection of Keweenaw-related books are for sale on their website and also down at the Isle Royale National Park Headquarters and the Houghton Visitor Center which is open all year. She asked for publications or educational items related to the Keweenaw that anyone might wish to include. The Visitor Center hours are 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. The website address is [www.irnha.org](http://www.irnha.org).

Clyde wondered if the park is promoting itself to snowmobilers and skiers, winter carnival.

Jill replied that they keep the racks full in hotels, especially before Christmas. They also use the backside of the Isle Royale Newspaper as well as the Ingot. They are working right now on a new catalog.

VIII. Adjourn, Next Meeting April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn was passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on April 26, 2005 at the park headquarters in Calumet.